

## **Environmental Advisory Committee Earth Day Resolution**

On Earth Day (April 22, 2004) the Environmental Advisory Committee passed the following resolution. We resolve to have Bemidji State University do the following:

1. Sign the Talloires Declaration during a public event occurring Fall semester 2004.

The Talloires Declaration is a ten point action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy in university operations. It has been signed by over three hundred university presidents and chancellors in over forty countries. To learn more about this declaration, you may link to it from the Environmental Advisory web page at <http://www.bemidjistate.edu/ehs/EnvAdvCom.html> or go to it directly at [www.ulsf.org/programs\\_talloires.html](http://www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires.html) or [www.unesco.org/iau/tfsd\\_talloires.html](http://www.unesco.org/iau/tfsd_talloires.html),

2. Continue to pursue the goals outlined on the master plan.
  - a. Particularly goals associated with parking and transportation sustainability. We advise no new parking lots. All previous research conducted on parking indicates that the current lots are under-used. Issues around security can be dealt with through security escorts and/or the implementation of a shuttle system.
  - b. Goals associated with the continued naturalization of the Bemidji State University campus are directly linked to NOT increasing parking. Maintaining natural sites and green spaces is necessary for Bemidji State University if it wants to continue to claim its environmental mission statement. Furthermore, the statement “the lake, the learning, the life” implies a strong environmental ethic dedicated to maintaining the natural environment and the protection of “the lake.” Creating any new parking structures would be a waste of valuable time, money, and more importantly, our valuable environment.
3. Develop an endowment through the foundation which would allow individuals and/or groups donating money to BSU to choose environmental sustainable programs.
  - a. This fund would be used for student scholarships and project support directly related to environmental sustainability at Bemidji State University. This would demonstrate BSU’s commitment to its environmental mission statement.

- b. This fund could also be used to bring BSU additional monies from individuals and organization who may not have donated in the past but would donate if they were able to choose the placement of their money into environmental programs.
- c. This fund would also allow BSU to make sustainable changes such as with energy use. Money from this fund would enable the utilization of renewable and sustainable energy technologies such as wind power. This would allow BSU to be in compliance with global climate treaties such as the Kyoto Protocol.

All three aspects of the resolution offer public identification of BSU as a role-model in greening it's campus. They will save BSU money (i.e., no parking and wind power) and allow BSU to maintain it's environmental ethic as stated in its environment mission statement. Further explanation and accompanying documentation has been generated largely by our student population. This information (including a bibliography) can be accessed through the following website.